

# OSU meeting aims to unite black students

By Lori Paulsen

"No struggle . . . no progress" is the theme for the seventh annual Big Eight Conference on Black Student Government at Oklahoma State University.

"The theme signifies blacks' struggle to get back to the basics," Renee Jones, an Oklahoma State senior and chairwoman of the conference said. Jones said the conference will be geared toward uniting blacks in order to solve their problems.

The conference is designed to provide black students of the Big Eight Conference schools and smaller schools within the conference's six states to meet and discuss common problems and concerns they encounter on their campuses, Jones said.

About 600 students attended the 1983 conference, which Nebraska hosted.

The Big Eight council will hold its first meeting of 1984 during the conference. One main issue the council will discuss will be federal budget cuts in minority projects, Jones said. Jones said the cuts caused adjustments with the original \$24,344 conference budget.

Howard Shipp, coordinator of minority services at OSU, said the student registration fee of \$30 for the conference covers only 60 percent of the cost. Shipp said several colleges at OSU and local banks, savings and loans institutions, oil companies, hotels and other local businesses have helped pay the remaining cost.

Another issue the council may discuss is black political apathy, Cynthia Gooch of UNL said. Gooch is the vice-chairwoman for the council. She said the council will discuss ways of encouraging blacks to

vote in the upcoming presidential election. The council may also discuss the possibility of endorsing Jesse Jackson as the Democratic presidential candidate.

Martin Luther King III is the keynote speaker of the conference. King will speak at 7 p.m. Feb. 11 at the awards dinner.

The conference will also feature workshops on such subjects as the Black Greek System, Black Professional Women, Black Male-Female Relationships and Black Employment.

Another conference highlight will be the second annual Mr. and Miss Black Big Eight pageant. The contestants will be judged on talent, a question-and-answer interview and appearance. The pageant will follow King's speech.

## Regents . . .

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LR223, a constitutional amendment proposing a board of higher education to replace the regents and the State College Board, was also discussed.

Sponsor Howard Peterson of Grand Island said one board could consider statewide needs better and use comprehensive planning to meet those needs.

No student members would be on this board, Peterson said, although an advisory board with students might be added later.

Deb Chapelle, Nebraska State Student Association executive director, said she is concerned with elimination of students from the board.

"Input (from students) should be enhanced, and certainly not eliminated," she said.

The regents have passed resolutions opposing both legislative resolutions.

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